

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10

AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00

USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 L-02 PRS-01 PA-02 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1877

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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TAGS: AORG, OCON, WTO

SUBJECT: WTO GENERAL ASSEMBLY: REPORT ON PERIOD MAY 12-17

REF: GENEVA 3319

SUMMARY: WITH 88 DELEGATIONS PARTICIPATING THE WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION (WTO) OPENED ITS FIRST ASSEMBLY IN MADRID ON MAY 12 AKD ELECTED JOSE LUIS LOPEZ-HENARES, SPANISH MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM UNDERSECRETARY, AS PRESIDENT. DURING PERIOD MAY 12-17 ASSEMBLY ELECTED 9 VICE PRESIDENTS AND A 19 MEMBER (INCLUDING US) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL; APPROVED APPOINTMENTS TO ITS CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE; PROVISIONALLY APPROVED ITS RULES OF PRECEDURE; APPOINTED AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE AMENDMENTS TO ITS RULES OF PROCEDURE AND REPORT BACK TO THE ASSEMBLY BEFORE THE CLOSE OF THE SESSION; AND DECIDED (79-0-4 (US)) TO MAINTAIN THE FORMER IUOTO REGIONAL COMMISSIONS. - AFRICA, THE AMERICAS, SOUTH ASIA, EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST PACIFIC AND EAST ASIA - AS REGIONAL COMMISSIONS OF THE WTO. END SUMMARY.

1. WITH DELEGATIONS FROM 88 COUNTRIES THE WTO OPENED ITS FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MADRID ON MAY 12 UNDER THE TEMPORARY CHAIRMANSHIP OF PRINCE JUAN CARLOS OF SPAIN, HEARD OPENING
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ADDRESSES BY SPANISH MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM LEON

HERRERA Y ESTEBAN, UNDERSECRETARY JOSE LUIS LOPEZ-HENARES AND ROBERT C. LONATI, WTO SECRETARY GENERAL AD INTERIM AND IN THE PERIOD MAY 13-17 TOOK THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

2. ELECTED JOSE LUIS LOPEZ-HENARES, SPANISH UNDERSECRETARY OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM AS PRESIDENT;

3. ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION FOLLOWING 9 HEADS OF DELEGATION AS VICE PRESIDENTS TO REPRESENT REGIONS INDICATED:

AFRICA: MOROCCO, UGANDA;
EUROPE: CZECHOSLOVAKIA, ITALY;
MIDDLE EAST: EGYPT;
AMERICAS: ARGENTINA, MEXICO;
SOUTH ASIA: SRI LANKA
PACIFIC/EAST ASIA: PHILIPPINES

4. ELECTED BY VOTES INDICATED FOLLOWING 19 COUNTRIES TO SERVE ON EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:

AFRICA	TUNISIA	- 77
	ZAMBIA	- 76
	CAMEROON	- 78
	NIGERIA	- 78
	SENEGAL	- 78
AMERICAS:	U.S.	- 77
	PANAMA	- 76
	VENEZUELA	- 78
	PERU	- 78
SOUTH ASIA:	BANGLADESH	- 76
EUROPE:	USSR	- 76
	POLAND	- 76
	BELGIUM/NETHERLANDS	- 71
	FRANCE	- 78
	YUGOSLAVIA	- 78
MIDDLE EAST:	LEBANON	- 77
PACIFIC,		
EAST ASIA:	INDONESIA	- 78
	THAILAND	- 78

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ALSO ELECTED TO COUNCIL WERE PAKISTAN/JORDAN - 46

COMMENT: SPLIT SEATS FOR BELGIUM/NETHERLANDS AND PAKISTAN/JORDAN WERE DESIGNED TO INDICATE FIRST NAMED COUNTRY WOULD SIT ON COUNCIL FIRST HALF OF ITS TERM AND WOULD THEN RELINQUISH SEAT TO SECOND NAMED COUNTRY TO SERVE FINAL HALF OF TERM. ARRANGEMENT WAS CONSEQUENCE OF ASSEMBLY DECISION TO PROVIDE FOR NOMINATIONS TO COME FROM REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

AND WAS NECESSITATED BY INABILITY OF THESE COMMISSIONS TO AGREE ON SINGLE CANDIDATES. (FYI. TERMS ARE NORMALLY 4 YEARS; FOR FIRST COUNCIL TERMS ARE 2 YEARS FOR 9 MEMBERS, 4 YEARS FOR 10 MEMBERS.)

DESIGNATION OF PAKISTAN/JORDAN TO SERVE AS 19TH MEMBER OF COUNCIL WAS LISTED OUTSIDE OF REGIONAL GROUPINGS BECAUSE ASSEMBLY DECIDED THAT SEATS SHOULD BE ASSIGNED EACH REGION ON STATUTORY BASIS OF ONE SEAT FOR 5 COUNTRIES AND WHERE A REGION HAD MORE COUNTRIES THAN AN EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF ONE FOR FIVE, BUT LESS THAN A FULL SEAT (I.E. 22 COUNTRIES EQUALS 4 SEATS PLUS 2 COUNTRIES TOWARD THE NECESSARY 5 FOR A FIFTH SEAT) IT WAS LEFT THAT REGION COULD NOMINATE AN ADDITIONAL CANDIDATE TO COMPLETE FOR THE 19TH SEAT.

THREE REGIONS - THE AMERICAS, SOUTH ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST- THUS QUALIFIED TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES AND THE COMBINATION PAKISTAN (SOUTH ASIA) AND JORDAN (MIDDLE EAST) WON OVER BRAZIL (CANDIDATE OF THE AMERICAS), 46-32.

5. APPROVED APPOINTMENTS OF FOLLOWING COUNTRIES TO ITS CREDENTIALS COMMITTEES: BRAZIL, CANADA, GABON, MALAYSIA, IRAN, ITALY, LEBANON, ROMANIA AND KENYA.

6. ADOPTED ITS RULES OF PROCEDURE PROVISIONALLY AND NAMED SEVEN MEMBER AD HOC COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES AND REPORT BACK TO ASSEMBLY BEFORE ITS CLOSE, NAMED TO COMMITTEE WERE CZECHOSLOVAKIA, CHILE, PHILIPPINES, FRANCE, INDIA, IRAQ AND GHANA.

7. OBSERVERS PRESENT FROM US, UNDP, IBRD, ILO, IMCO AND THE OAS.

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